

Trust in Government Dashboard

The Partnership for Public Service conducted a nationally representative survey of 800 Americans from Nov. 29 to Dec. 6, 2022. Surveys were conducted in English and Spanish and had a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points. Unless otherwise noted, all data here comes from that 2022 survey.

For more information about the data, contact **Nadzeya Shutava** at nshutava@ourpublicservice.org

The level of trust in the federal government remains low.

Only 35% of Americans say they trust the federal government compared with 46% who say they do not and 16% who are neutral.

Democrats are far more likely to trust the government than Republicans and Independents.

How much do you trust the federal government?			
	Trust	Neutral	Do Not Trust
Overall	35%	16%	46%
Democrats	52	18	28
Republicans	23	14	63
Independents/ Don't know	28	16	52
<small>Question was asked on a scale of 0 to 10. "Do not trust" includes answers from 0 to 4. "Neutral" includes answers of 5. "Trust" includes answers from 6 to 10.</small>			
<small>Source: Partnership for Public Service survey of 800 U.S. adults from Nov. 29 to Dec. 6, 2022.</small>			

When asked about the federal government as a whole, Americans tend to express mostly negative views.

Only 42% say the federal government has a positive impact on the country. About 70% say the federal government is “wasteful,” “too bureaucratic” and “corrupt.”

Only about 20% say the government “listens to the public” or is “transparent.”

Views of the federal government		
	Positive	Negative
Impact the federal government has on the U.S.	42%	53%
Impact on people like you	40	52
	Agree	Disagree
Wasteful	70	23
Too bureaucratic	70	13
Corrupt	67	24
Incompetent	56	37
	Agree	Disagree
Keeps me safe	45	46
Serves my community	38	51
Is accountable	34	62
Helps people like me	33	62
Treats all demographic groups fairly	28	66
Listens to the public	22	73
Is transparent	21	70
Source: Partnership for Public Service survey of 800 U.S. adults from Nov. 29 to Dec. 6, 2022.		

Many Americans equate the federal government with Congress.

[Previous research by the Partnership](#) suggests that most people think of Congress when they are asked about the federal government in general. Only 30% of Americans say they approve of members of Congress.

Views on different levels of government and government employees		
	Favorable	Unfavorable
Federal government	36	58
Civil servants	62	19
Nonelected federal government employees	49	28
Local government	58	36
State government	53	42
Members of Congress	30	60
Source: Partnership for Public Service survey of 800 U.S. adults from Nov. 29 to Dec. 6, 2022.		

Americans generally view civil servants positively.

They say federal employees are “competent” by a ratio of more than 2-to-1. Far more Americans agree civil servants are “doing public service” than disagree and say that they are “hard workers.”

Views of federal employees		
Most non-elected federal government employees...	Agree	Disagree
Are competent	57%	25%
Are doing public service	53	30
Are hard workers	52	28
Are committed to helping people like me	46	39
Are corrupt	30	50
Source: Partnership for Public Service survey of 800 U.S. adults from Nov. 29 to Dec. 6, 2022.		

Most well-known federal agencies are viewed favorably.

Of the 13 agencies the [Partnership asked respondents about in 2021](#), Americans viewed 12 of those agencies more favorably than unfavorably, some by wide margins. For example, 84% of Americans had a favorable view of the National Park Service, while 69% viewed the Social Security Administration favorably.

Views of federal agencies			
	Very/Somewhat favorable	Very/Somewhat unfavorable	Can't rate
National Park Service	84%	5%	11%
Social Security Administration	69	23	8%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	65	29	5%
Department of Veterans Affairs	64	24	12%
Census Bureau	62	21	16%
Environmental Protection Agency	60	26	14%
Health and Human Services	60	26	14%
Department of Homeland Security	56	30	14%
Transportation Security Administration	55	27	18%
Department of Justice	52	39	10%
Department of State	46	34	19%
Immigration and Customs Enforcement	46	41	13%
Internal Revenue Service	42	51	7%

Source: Partnership for Public Service survey of 2,301 U.S. adults from Oct. 18-24, 2021.

Americans give high marks to many government services.

More than 70% of Americans who received specific federal services say they were satisfied with the interaction.

This includes people who filed federal taxes, voted in federal elections, applied for Medicare or Medicaid, applied for a passport, signed up for an account on a government website and applied for federal student aid.

Americans who have interacted with the federal government have generally been satisfied			
	% of people who have done activity	Of those who have, % who were...	
		Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Applied for a passport	52	88	6
Applied for federal student aid	33	73	24
Applied for Medicare or Medicaid	58	74	19
Filed federal taxes	93%	74%	18%
Signed up for an account on a government website	46	74	15
Voted in federal election	79	77	15

Source: Partnership for Public Service survey of 800 U.S. adults from Nov. 29 to Dec. 6, 2022.